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Dated: February 12, 2007

Signature: 

(Lori Sims)

Docket No.: 223002010004  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Application No.: 09/884,455

Art Unit: 1656

Filed: June 18, 2001

Examiner: W. Moore

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.114)**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This is in response to the final Office Action dated January 12, 2006, and the Notice of Appeal filed on July 11, 2006, with a due date of September 11, 2006. A five-month petition for extension of time is filed herewith thereby extending the deadline to February 11, 2007. This Response accompanies a Request for Continued Examination filed herewith. February 11, 2007 being a Sunday, this response is timely filed on February 12, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.